

September 29, 2003

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — GeoData.gov, a part of the Geospatial One-Stop initiative, one of the President's E-Government Initiatives, has responded twice in the last two weeks to major natural disasters. GeoData.gov, a portal featuring "one-stop" access to geospatial information and resources from diverse sources, quickly compiled and posted links to web sites, maps and information from numerous government sources on the impact of Hurricane Isabel that shut down much of the east coast of the United States as well as the September 25<sup>th</sup> earthquake in Japan and its potential impact on the United States.

Geospatial information technology can provide critical tools for responding to emergencies and response efforts, protecting life, property and infrastructure. GeoData.gov provides easy to visualize information, allows quick understanding of weather patterns and helps responders identify potential dangers. Information can be quickly updated, combined and transmitted over the Internet to millions and support informed decision-making. As a result, government can contribute and share geospatial information. The Hurricane Isabel effort was a collaborative effort among several partnering organizations including the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), NASA, the States of Delaware, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, in addition to other federal, state, and local organizations and private organizations.

Sources for maps and data links on the Hokkaido, Japan earthquake include: USGS, National Weather Service Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Pacific Disaster Center, Bureau of Land Management, and the Alaska State Office.

Geodata.gov is a new portal designed to feature "one stop" access to geospatial information and resources from diverse sources, allow multiple users to share the same information from different physical locations and integrate data from many sources. When fully populated, it will allow easy searches for existing and planned data with a goal of "two clicks" to content.

Geodata.gov was developed as part the Geospatial One Stop project, one of the President's E-Gov initiatives. The Geospatial One-Stop initiative will make it easier, faster and less expensive to find, share and access geospatial information across all levels of government, reducing wasteful spending and redundant investments, and providing the tools for greater intergovernmental collaboration and partnership for decision making on key policy issues such as emergency response, homeland security, environmental protection and economic development.

As an integral part of the President's Management Agenda, the E-Gov initiatives make it easier for citizens and businesses to interact with the government, save taxpayer dollars, and streamline citizen-to-government transactions. For more information on each of the President's E-Government initiatives, please visit [www.egov.gov](http://www.egov.gov) or contact OMB Communications at 202-395-7254.

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